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EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE PEOPLE OF NEW ZEALAND FOR THE TERRIBLE LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF THE DEADLY EARTHQUAKE THAT STRUCK ON FEBRUARY 22, 2011 AND EXPRESSING HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES AND SUPPORT FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE OF JAPAN AND ALL THOSE AFFECTED IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE DEADLY EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMIS OF MARCH 11, 2011

MARKUP

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

ON

H. Res. 139 and H. Res. 172

MARCH 31, 2011

Serial No. 112–10

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THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2011

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA AND THE PACIFIC,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:05 p.m., in room 2360, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Donald A. Manzullo (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. MANZULLO. The subcommittee will come to order.

After the conclusion of this brief business meeting, we will proceed immediately to today's hearing.

As previously announced, we have two noncontroversial resolutions, H. Res. 139 and H. Res. 172.

[The resolutions follow:]

IV

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 139

Expressing condolences to the people of New Zealand for the terrible loss of life and property suffered as a result of the deadly earthquake that struck on February 22, 2011.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 2, 2011

Mr. MANZULLO (for himself, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. SABLAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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RESOLUTION

Expressing condolences to the people of New Zealand for the terrible loss of life and property suffered as a result of the deadly earthquake that struck on February 22, 2011.

Whereas on February 22, 2011, a massive earthquake measuring 6.3 magnitude on the Richter scale struck the Canterbury region of New Zealand at 12:51 p.m. local time, causing tremendous loss of life and devastation in a region already struggling to rebuild as a result of an earlier quake;

Whereas by March 2, 2011, the death toll had climbed to approximately 250 people with a significant number still missing;

Whereas numerous personal accounts detail the heroism of survivors helping victims escape the rubble and destruction, many of whom were tourists and children;

Whereas the damage to Christchurch was exacerbated as a result of an earlier earthquake, measuring 7.1 magnitude that struck the region on September 4, 2010, and which was followed by hundreds of aftershocks;

Whereas one-third of the buildings in Christchurch's central business district are deemed unsafe, 755 buildings face demolition, and 625 properties in Christchurch's surrounding suburbs are damaged beyond repair;

Whereas roads buckled and water pipes burst, flooding streets and depriving 35 percent of Christchurch's residents from access to potable water;

Whereas the steeple of Christchurch Cathedral, a historic landmark, collapsed with an estimated 22 people feared trapped in the rubble;

Whereas 2 commuter buses were crushed under falling debris;

Whereas Lyttelton Port and the town of New Brighton, both closer to the epicenter of the earthquake, are considered disaster areas;

Whereas the collapsed Christchurch Canterbury Television building housed an English language school with students from Japan, China, Thailand, the Philippines, and South Korea, who are among the casualties;

Whereas New Zealand Prime Minister John Key has described February 22, 2011, as one of New Zealand's darkest days and its worst natural disaster in over 80 years;

Whereas the estimated monetary damage to Christchurch and the greater Canterbury region may exceed $15,000,000,000 in damages;

Whereas Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton affirmed in the Wellington Declaration on November 4, 2010, that "New Zealand and the United States are both Pacific nations. Our governments and peoples share a deep and abiding interest in maintaining peace, prosperity, and stability in the region, expanding the benefits of freer and more open trade, and promoting and protecting freedom, democracy and human rights worldwide. We recall the long history of shared United States and New Zealand sacrifice in battle and we honor those, past and present, who have borne that sacrifice";

Whereas the largest congressional delegation ever to visit New Zealand participated in the United States-New Zealand Partnership Forum, held in Christchurch, to deepen the bilateral relationship and promote United States priorities within the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade negotiations, which the delegation left only hours before the earthquake struck;

Whereas the remaining United States delegation at the United States-New Zealand Partnership Forum, which included senior executive branch officials, former legislators, and leaders in business and academia, were also affected by the earthquake;

Whereas the Government of New Zealand offered outstanding support in securing and evacuating the United States delegation in the aftermath of the earthquake;

Whereas the United States has affirmed its support and assistance to the people of New Zealand, sending an 80-

person United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Disaster Assistance Response Team;

Whereas the United States Embassy dispersed to hospitals, shelters, triage centers, and public parks in Christchurch to search for United States citizens in the aftermath of the destruction;

Whereas Embassy personnel in Wellington, New Zealand, opened their homes to house 24 United States evacuees, including 8 students;

Whereas approximately 3,500 United States citizens were believed to be in Christchurch at the time of the earthquake, including delegates to the United States-New Zealand Partnership Forum;

Whereas Australia, Japan, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and other nations have sent rescue teams to assist in the vast rescue mission; and

Whereas President Barack Obama expressed his "deepest condolences to the people of New Zealand and to the families and friends of the victims in Christchurch, which suffered its second major earthquake in just six months": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its condolences to the people of New Zealand for the terrible loss of life and property suffered as a result of the deadly earthquake that struck on February 22, 2011;

(2) mourns with the people of New Zealand and all the countries affected by the earthquake;

(3) pledges its full support to New Zealand as the rescue and recovery effort continues;

(4) recognizes the humanitarian response currently underway; and

(5) supports the continuing efforts by the United States Government and private citizens to assist New Zealand as it copes with this natural disaster.

○

IV

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 172

Expressing heartfelt condolences and support for assistance to the people of Japan and all those affected in the aftermath of the deadly earthquake and tsunamis of March 11, 2011.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 15, 2011

Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. MANZULLO, Ms. HANABUSA, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. DEGETTE, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MOORE, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. BASS of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. CHU, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. SABLAN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. WU, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. NEAL, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

---

RESOLUTION

Expressing heartfelt condolences and support for assistance to the people of Japan and all those affected in the aftermath of the deadly earthquake and tsunamis of March 11, 2011.

Whereas on March 11, 2011, an estimated 9.0-magnitude earthquake struck off the northeast coast of Japan, approximately 80 miles from the coastal city of Sendai;

Whereas the massive earthquake was the most powerful on record to hit Japan and the fourth strongest in the world since 1900, according to the U.S. Geological Survey;

Whereas the earthquake has been followed by more than 200 aftershocks, some reaching magnitudes above 6.0 and triggering additional tsunami warnings;

Whereas the massive 9.0-magnitude earthquake produced a major tsunami nearly 30 feet in height which surged several miles inland in Japan;

Whereas the tsunami traveled across the Pacific Ocean at an approximate speed of 500 miles per hour, prompting warnings and alerts for over 50 countries and territories throughout the Pacific Ocean, including the United States and her territories;

Whereas the tsunami's impact on the United States included two casualties, forced evacuations, and significant property damage initially reported in Kealakekua, Maalaea Harbor, and Kahului in Hawaii, Crescent City, Fort Bragg, and Santa Cruz harbors in California, and the port of Brookings-Harbor in Oregon;

Whereas by March 14, 2011, states of emergency were declared for Hawaii and California's Del Norte, Humboldt, San Mateo, and Santa Cruz counties with others to possibly follow;

Whereas videos and aerial images taken immediately following the tsunami's impact on Japan show flooded towns and farmland, collapsed buildings and homes, raging fires, and hundreds of automobiles, trains, and boats swept away;

Whereas four nuclear power plants in Fukushima Prefecture were immediately shutdown due to safety concerns about

damage sustained and prompted the evacuation of thousands of local residents;

Whereas by March 14, 2011, states of emergency continue at the Fukushima Daiichi and Fukushima Daini nuclear power plants due to multiple explosions, threats of leaking radiation, and possible nuclear meltdown;

Whereas after the earthquake and tsunami impact, nearly half a million people in Japan were displaced and millions more were left without power;

Whereas by March 14, 2011, the National Police Agency of Japan reported the number of people affected at 1,897 casualties, 1,885 injured, and 3,002 missing;

Whereas the police chief of Miyagi Prefecture, prefecture nearest to the epicenter of the earthquake, predicted that the casualties could be over 10,000 in that area alone;

Whereas the full extent of the tremendous loss of life and destruction of property will not be known for some time;

Whereas Japan Prime Minister Naoto Kan addressed the people of Japan and said that "this is the biggest crisis we have faced in our 65-year post war history";

Whereas the people of Japan have demonstrated steadfast courage, selflessness, resilience, and compassion during this tragedy;

Whereas international groups and private citizens have quickly and compassionately rallied humanitarian assistance and donations for the people of Japan;

Whereas over 70 nations have offered relief assistance and many have sent disaster response teams to Japan, including a search and rescue team from New Zealand, which was devastated by an earthquake on February 22, 2011;

Whereas the United States helped to rebuild Japan following World War II, fostering an enduring friendship between the two peoples;

Whereas the friendship between the United States and Japan is based upon shared democratic ideals, strong economic ties, and a mutual security partnership;

Whereas the United States rapidly responded to the earthquake by sending to Japan two United States Agency for International Development (USAID) urban search and rescue teams, a USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team, and United States naval vessels including the USS Ronald Reagan battle group; and

Whereas President Barack Obama affirmed United States support and assistance to the people of Japan by offering his condolences and declared that "the United States stands ready to help the Japanese people in this time of great trial": Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved,* That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) mourns with the people of Japan and all the
3 countries affected for the horrific loss of life caused
4 by the tragic earthquake and tsunami on March 11,
5 2011;

6 (2) expresses its deepest condolences and sym-
7 pathy to the families of the victims of this tragedy;

8 (3) applauds the prompt commitments of sup-
9 port and humanitarian efforts already underway by
10 the international community, relief agencies, and
11 private citizens;

1 (4) reaffirms the longstanding friendship shared
2 between the United States and Japan;
3 (5) pledges its full support and solidarity with
4 the people of Japan and all others affected by this
5 tragedy as they struggle to rebuild their lives in the
6 wake of this disaster; and
7 (6) urges the United States Government to con-
8 tinue to provide assistance to Japan and damaged
9 United States communities during their recovery
10 and reconstruction efforts.

○

Mr. MANZULLO. Because we are taking them up as introduced and bipartisan consultations have not indicated the need for any amendments, it is the intention of the chair to consider these measures en bloc and, by unanimous consent, to report them favorably to the full Committee on Foreign Affairs.

All members are given leave to insert remarks on the measures into the record, should they choose to do so.

Before turning to the ranking member, I would like to say a few words about the horrible tragedies that struck our dear friends in New Zealand and Japan.

In the short time span of just over 1 month, the world has witnessed two horrific natural disasters that struck at the very core of humanity.

On February 22, 2011, the Canterbury region of New Zealand's South Island was struck by a magnitude 6.3 earthquake at 12:51 p.m. local time. This was the second quake to strike Christchurch, and it occurred at the worst possible time of the day. The earthquake destroyed historic landmarks, buckled roads, and left 10,000 homes beyond repair and another 100,000 buildings damaged. It left in its wake a death toll that is expected to reach close to 200 from all walks of life—families, friends, students, and teachers—and from around the world, including the United States.

I have strong feelings regarding this tragedy because my good friend, Eni Faleomavaega, and I, along with six other Members of Congress, were in Christchurch attending the U.S.-New Zealand Partnership Forum just prior to the quake. We missed the quake by 2 hours and 21 minutes. Many others did not. Assistant Sec-

retary Kurt Campbell and Cal Cohen, both of whom are scheduled to testify shortly, and close to 50 American delegates at the forum, were in the quake. Thankfully, none of them were hurt.

We were informed of this tragedy by our colleagues in the New Zealand Parliament during a meeting in Wellington, and our hearts ached at the loss that they were experiencing.

House Res. 139 expresses the House of Representatives' condolences to the people of New Zealand for the terrible loss of life suffered as a result of the quake.

I urge members of the subcommittee to support this resolution.

Less than 3 weeks after New Zealand's tragedy, Japan was struck by a magnitude 9.0 earthquake. This catastrophic quake, recorded as the fourth strongest in the world, was the most powerful to ever hit Japan. The earth shook for over 5 minutes and produced an enormous tsunami that surged inland, destroying entire towns and killing huge numbers of people. As of this week, over 11,000 people have been confirmed dead, while another 16,000 remain missing. The Fukushima nuclear power plant sustained tremendous damage, and, regrettably, we will not know the long-term effects for many years.

To date, 134 countries have offered assistance, including a search and rescue team from New Zealand, even as it recovers from its own disaster. Japan is facing its largest crisis since World War II, and I admire the people of Japan for their steadfast courage, resilience, and compassion in confronting this extreme adversity. The U.S. has 15,000 U.S. personnel on-ground taking part in around-the-clock operations. We will continue to do whatever it takes to support one of our closest friends in the region.

Without objection, the written statements of Representative Honda, sponsor of House Resolution 172, will be entered into the record.

I now recognize the ranking member for his remarks.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Chairman, I also want to commend you for your leadership and for the initiative that you have taken on behalf of our subcommittee in offering these two resolutions touching on the tragedies and the catastrophes that are now encountered by the good people of New Zealand as well as the people of Japan.

I do want to commend you. As you have stated earlier, this is a bipartisan effort on your part and for which I really want to compliment your efforts in seeing that we do this.

And, on behalf of my colleagues on this side of the aisle, we wholeheartedly support the substance and the intent of these two resolutions. And I would like to urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support these resolutions.

Mr. MANZULLO. Accordingly, without objection, the following resolutions are agreed to and reported favorably to the full Committee on Foreign Affairs: H. Res. 139 and H. Res. 172.

That concludes our markup. The subcommittee markup stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 2:10 p.m., the subcommittee proceeded to other business.]

APPENDIX

Material Submitted for the Hearing Record

SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP NOTICE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515-0128

Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific
Donald A. Manzullo (R-IL), Chairman

March 29, 2011

You are respectfully requested to attend an OPEN markup of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on the Asia and the Pacific, to be held in **Room 2360 of the Rayburn House Office Building (and available live, via the WEBCAST link on the Committee website at http://www.hcfa.house.gov):**

DATE: Thursday, March 31, 2011

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

MARKUP OF: H. Res. 139: Expressing condolences to the people of New Zealand for the terrible loss of life and property suffered as a result of the deadly earthquake that struck on February 22, 2011; and

H. Res. 172: Expressing heartfelt condolences and support for assistance to the people of Japan and all those affected in the aftermath of the deadly earthquake and tsunamis of March 11, 2011.

By Direction of the Chairman

The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202/225-5021 at least four business days in advance of the event, whenever practicable. Questions with regard to special accommodations in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats and assistive listening devices) may be directed to the Committee.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEE MARKUP

MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON *Asia and the Pacific* MARKUP

Day *Thursday* **Date** *March 31, 2011* **Room** *2360 Rayburn*

Starting Time *2:03* **Ending Time** *2:10*

Recesses [*0*] (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____)

Presiding Member(s)

Donald A. Manzullo, Chairman

Check all of the following that apply:

Open Session [✓]
Executive (closed) Session [ ]
Televised [ ]

Electronically Recorded (taped) [✓]
Stenographic Record [✓]

BILLS FOR MARKUP: *(Include bill number(s) and title(s) of legislation.)*

H.Res. 139 - Expressing condolences to the people of New Zealand for the terrible loss of life and property suffered as a result of the deadly earthquake that struck on February 22, 2011
H.Res. 172 - Expressing heartfelt condolences and support for assistance to the people of Japan and all those affected in the aftermath of the deadly earthquake and tsunamis of March 11, 2011

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Donald Manzullo, Eni Faleomavaega, Bill Johnson, Steve Chabot

NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

None

STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD: *(List any statements submitted for the record.)*

Representative Michael Honda - Statement on H.Res. 172

ACTIONS TAKEN DURING THE MARKUP: *(Attach copies of legislation and amendments.)*

The resolutions were considered together and agreed to by unanimous consent

RECORDED VOTES TAKEN (FOR MARKUP): *(Attach final vote tally sheet listing each member.)*

Subject	Yeas	Nays	Present	Not Voting
H.Res. 139	*Unanimous*			
H.Res. 172	*Unanimous*			

TIME SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE _____
or
TIME ADJOURNED *2:10*

Subcommittee Staff Director

Congressman Michael M. Honda
Statement on H.Res. 172, Expressing Heartfelt Condolences and Support for Assistance to the People of Japan and All Those Affected in the Aftermath of the Deadly Earthquake and Tsunami of March 11, 2011
Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
March 31, 2011

Chairman Manzullo, Ranking Member Faleomavaega, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee, I am grateful to you and your dedicated staff for recognizing the importance of expressions of support by considering House Resolution 172, as well as House Resolution 139. I believe that the House has a responsibility, as the voice of our constituents, to respond to international events such as these tragedies.

As a Japanese-American and Chair Emeritus of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I was honored to introduce House Resolution 172 with the support of many of my colleagues including the distinguished Chairman and Ranking Member. House Resolution 172 is a simple resolution that would express the House of Representatives' condolences and support for the people of Japan and all those affected by the devastating earthquake and tsunami on March 11th, 2011.

I do not think, however, that a resolution can truly reflect the magnitude of this disaster and its impact on innocent lives. Since the resolution's introduction, the number of lost lives has exceeded 11,000, with over 16,000 still missing, including Americans. Even now, the fears about the states of emergency at the Fukushima nuclear power plants have reached the United States. I can only imagine how that crisis is affecting the people of Japan as they grieve and begin to reconnect to their former lives. It will be some time before this crisis is over and we know of the full extent of the destruction and loss of life.

As we continue to be shocked by the countless scenes of devastation and overwhelmed by the show of international support, we must join with the sentiments of our Senate colleagues and President Obama by expressing the House's condolences and support for the people of Japan and all those affected by earthquake and tsunami on March 11th, 2011.

Again, thank you for your compassionate work on these expressions of support for our friends and allies devastated by these natural disasters. I hope that the House will quickly consider and pass House Resolution 172, as well as House Resolution 139, and I look forward to working with you to this end.

○